

### An 11-year old Mongolian Sandplover *Charadrius mongolus* wintering on the Kenya coast

Waders have been studied and ringed at various inland sites in Kenya but at only one place on the coast, at Mida Creek (3°22'S, 39°58'E) where 4000–5000 winter (pers. obs and D.J. Pearson pers. comm.). Although more than 3000 waders have been ringed at Mida in the past, only one, a Mongolian Sandplover *Charadrius mongolus*, has been recovered elsewhere (Pakistan), so far (Backhurst 1988). This is a much lower rate of recovery than that obtained from wader ringing at Kenyan inland sites. On the other hand, in the years of regular wader-ringing at Mida the number of retrapped birds encountered was high, indicating a high site fidelity (D.J. Pearson pers. comm.). A similar situation occurred at the coastal wader ringing locality of Suakin (19°05'N, 37°20'E) on the Sudan Red Sea coast (GN, pers. obs.).

On the nights of 1/2 and 2/3 December 1988 we mist-netted 405 waders at Mida; the last netting carried out there was in early 1985, nearly four years before. The 405 included six retraps from previous years:

Great Sandplover *C. leschenaultii* 2 ringed in October 1984 as adults

Mongolian Sandplover ringed in December 1978 as an adult and one from January 1982 as a first-winter

Little Stint *Calidris minuta* 1 ringed in February 1985 as a first-winter

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* 1 ringed in February 1985 as a first-winter.

Thus one Mongolian Sandplover was at least 11 years old when retrapped which appears to be the oldest record for the species. Other longevity records for similar species are 15 years for a Kentish Plover *C. alexandrinus* (Meininger 1988) and 15 years for a Ringed Plover *C. hiaticula* (Mead & Clark 1988).

#### References

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### Notable long-interval retraps of Little Stint *Calidris minuta* and Chestnut-banded Sandplover *Charadrius pallidus* at Lake Magadi: a probable longevity record for the Little Stint

During an extended ringing-retrapping study of the Little Stint *Calidris minuta* at Magadi Hot Springs (2°00'S, 36°10'E), Kenya from 1972 to 1984 the oldest ringed bird recorded was in the April of its ninth year (3130 d between ringing and retrapping, Pearson (1987)). Although many hundreds of birds from 1972–74 were theoretically at risk, if alive, during